



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Resident Sentenced to 15 Years in Jail for Assaulting Girlfriend and Her Mother

Washington, D.C. - A Superior Court judge has sentenced Derrick Arthur, a 38-year-old District of Columbia man, to 15 years of incarceration in connection with an assault on his girlfriend and her mother in December 2005, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. The Honorable Ronna Lee Beck imposed the sentence earlier today. After a week-long trial in July of this year, a Superior Court jury found Derrick Arthur guilty of thirteen different offenses, including two counts of Assault With a Dangerous Weapon, two counts of Threats, Obstruction of Justice, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Previously Convicted Felon, and related charges.

According to evidence presented at trial, on December 10, 2005, Arthur got into an argument with his then-girlfriend while at her mother's apartment at 2801 Jasper Street, SE. At approximately 4:30 a.m., the defendant assaulted his girlfriend by pulling her hair and punching her. When his girlfriend's mother intervened, the defendant punched her too. The defendant then refused to leave the apartment until he had all of his belongings, so the girlfriend returned some items to him, including a pistol and a shotgun. The defendant pointed the pistol at several family members who were in the home and threatened to kill them all if anyone called the police. The defendant then continued to assault his girlfriend and her mother. Eventually, the defendant pulled his girlfriend out of the house by her hair, while pointing the gun at his girlfriend's mother and threatening to kill her if she followed him outside. The defendant took his girlfriend to a nearby parking lot and fired the pistol into the ground in the direction of her leg. The defendant and his girlfriend then left in the defendant's car. The next day, the defendant and his girlfriend were located at a hotel on New York Avenue, NE. The police surrounded the hotel, but the defendant escaped, eluding police capture until his arrest three years later.

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his appreciation to Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective Elmer Baylor, Jr. He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Nicole Lee, Paralegal Specialist Jason Manuel, Victim Advocate Maria

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Shumar, and Law Clerk Jason Gumer, along with Assistant U.S. Attorneys Rikki McCoy, who conducted the initial stage of the grand jury investigation, and Cassidy Kesler Pinegar, who indicted and tried the case.

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